Assessment against SEG Standard: Component 1: Core requirements
Component 2: Glass eel fishing

Completed by
Nicolas Belhamiti

From 20th to 22nd January 2021
Update of assessment of the 8 February 2022

Final Version

Reviewed and Approved by Certification Body: David Bunt, Sustainable Eel Group, 15 February 2022

1) Introduction

This document represents the report produced following the audit carried out from 20th to 22nd January 2021 under the SEG (Sustainable Eel Group) standard (version 6.0a, December 2019) with a group of 25 fishermen operating on the Charente, the Seudre and the Brouage marshes. The fishermen concerned by this certification sell their glass eels directly to the fish merchants at the landing ports.
An additional audit was carried out on 8 February 2022 with the river fishermen of the Charente. They operate between the confluence with the Boutonne and the Saint-Savinien dam. These fishermen store glass eels in a fish tank at home.

It was the company Gurruchaga Marée that organised this audit and the fishermen's group will be called "Fishermen Charente Seudre Brouage". This assessment was carried out for components 1 and 2 of the standard.

On the Charente, 20 fishermen work in the port of Soubise. Frames used are most often rectangular, sometimes square, and the fishing area must not exceed 7m² per gear, i.e. 14m² in total. The length of the pocket is variable, often around 6 to 7m. Fishing is carried out on the surface only and mostly at night at rising tide. Filtration is mainly done facing the current at low speeds. It is important to specify that fishing licences allow professionals to fish on both the Charente and the Seudre. Thus, some may change fishing sites during the season.

On the river section of the Charente, 9 fishermen are concerned. In this sector, only the hand sieve is authorised. This sieve has a maximum width of 120 cm and the pocket can be up to 250 cm deep. However, as the sieves are only operated by hand, the depth of the pocket is much smaller. They only fish at night and change areas depending on the time of the season. To do this they travel by boat but are always anchored during the fishing action. They can also fish from the shore. When fishing, they pass the sieve through the water on the surface, lift it up and place the glass eels in the box (topped by a reject sieve) which acts as a fish tank.

Figure 1: Example of a sieve used by river fishermen in the Charente (Saint Savinien)

On the Seudre, 3 fishermen work only on this site, between the Tremblade and the port of l'Eguille. Fishing is carried out exclusively at night and at rising tide. The fishing area of the gear is also 7m² maximum for a net length of 6 to 7m. Fishing in this sector is carried out only at night and mainly in front of the current at rising tide. Filtration is done with the help of the motorization of the boat at low speed. As previously mentioned, some fishermen operate both on the Seudre and the Charente.

In the Brouage marsh area, 1 fisherman works in the Havre de Brouage. He uses a fishing technique without motorization while remaining anchored on a mooring buoy. The frame used is square (1.2m x 1.2m) with a 4m long net. The nets filter only the current formed by the tide.

During boarding on the Seudre and Charente rivers, it was observed that some fishermen were not fully spinning the net, as can happen on the Sèvre Niortaise. These fishermen are not necessarily part of the SEG list, but care should be taken to ensure that SEG fishermen are spinning the entire pocket throughout the fishing season.

26 fishermen are concerned by the audit. Applying the sampling regime prescribed in the SEG Assurance system, 6 fishermen were audited. **For the additional audit on the river Charente, 9 fishermen are concerned and therefore 3 fishermen have been audited. In addition to these fishermen in a new sector, 6 fishermen on the Seudre and one fisherman on Brouage were added to the certificate in 2022.**

The following fishermen are concerned for this assessment:

NAME	FIRST NAME	AREA		NAME	FIRST NAME	AREA
BAUSMAYER	STEVE	CHARENTE MAR		PRIERE	PHILIPPE	SAINT SAVINIEN
BON	JORIS	CHARENTE MAR		MARCOU	DOMINIQUE	SAINT SAVINIEN
CHOTARD	YVES	CHARENTE MAR		MARTIN	OLIVIER	SAINT SAVINIEN
COMPERE	SEBASTIEN	CHARENTE MAR		MARTIN	MELANIE	SAINT SAVINIEN
GRAS	FABIEN	CHARENTE MAR		DUZON	BERNARD	SAINT SAVINIEN
GRENON	MAXIME	CHARENTE MAR		DUZON	DOMINIQUE	SAINT SAVINIEN
HELLEUX	SYLVAIN	CHARENTE MAR		REGRET	GUILLAUME	SAINT SAVINIEN
LE FLOCH	PATRICK	CHARENTE MAR		BOUFFET	PATRICK	SAINT SAVINIEN
MAINGUENEAU	JEAN-PAUL	CHARENTE MAR		BOUFFET	MICHEL	SAINT SAVINIEN
MASSE	ROMUALD	CHARENTE MAR		BARRAU	HERVE	SEUDRE

MAINGAUD	EMMANUEL	CHARENTE MAR		BARRAU	LIONEL	SEUDRE
MASSON	KYLIAN	CHARENTE MAR		PAILLE	SEBASTIEN	SEUDRE
MERIGNANT	THIERRY	CHARENTE MAR		PAILLE	ANTHONY	SEUDRE
MICHEAU	PHILIPPE	CHARENTE MAR		BLANCHARD	JEAN-PIERRE	SEUDRE
MORLON	JEAN-PAUL	CHARENTE MAR		JOURDAIN	ANTOINE	SEUDRE
RIVIERE	ALEXANDRE	CHARENTE MAR		BOULE	PATRICK	SEUDRE
ROUSSEAU	ROMAIN	CHARENTE MAR		RENOUX	DAMIEN	SEUDRE
TARDY	FRANCOIS	CHARENTE MAR		JACOB	EMMANUEL	SEUDRE
THOMAS	FREDERC	CHARENTE MAR		RUSSO	PHILLIPPE	SEUDRE
THOMAS	LUDOVIC	CHARENTE MAR		MORIN	MICHEL	BROUAGE
CLAVEAU	DYLAN	CHARENTE MAR		RIVIERE	ALEXANDRE	BROUAGE

2) The assessment

The evaluator was Nicolas Belhamiti from the Fish-Pass design office. The visit took place from 20th to 22nd January 2021. The fishermen audited were the following:

- Barrau Lionel and Maingeneau Jean-Paul at the port of l'Eguille on the Seudre on the evening tide of January 20th.
- Compere Sébastien, Bon Joris and Massé Romuald at the Port of Soubise on the Charente River during the morning tide of January 21st.
- Morin Michel on the Havre de Brouage during the evening tide of the January 21st.

For the audit of 8 February 2022, 3 fishermen were audited:

- **Mr Bouffet Patrick and Mr Michel at Pont de l'Houmée in the commune of Bords.**
- **Mr Martin Olivier at the Carillon in the commune of Bords.**

3) Client Contact Details

The company Gurruchaga Marée requested this audit. The resource person is therefore the head office of this structure as well as the collector of the sector.

Name/Compagny	Gurruchaga Marée / AGUERRE Bruno
Postal address	88 route de la corniche 64700 Hendaye
email address	gurrumaree@wanadoo.fr
Phone number	06 12 42 95 37

4) Results of the assessment

The outcome of this assessment is as follows:

Component 1: General Requirements	Auditor's findings	Weighting	Score
1.1 Commitment to Legality	Responsible	1	1
1.2 Contribution to eel conservation projects (bonus)	N/A	N/A	N/A
1.3 The organisation trades in certified responsibly sourced eels	N/A	N/A	N/A
1.4 Traceability:			
1.4.1 Incoming products, separation and segregation	Responsible	1	1
1.4.2 Outgoing products	Responsible	1	1
1.4.3 Record keeping and documentation	Responsible	1	1
1.5.1 Biosecurity & welfare – Biosecurity measures are adopted	Responsible	1	1
Total		5	5
Percentage Responsibility Score:		**100%**	

Finding: The fishery with a score of 100% meets the generic requirements and can be considered **responsible** for this component.

Component 2: Glass eel fishing	Auditor's findings	Weighting	Score
2.1 Eel fishing is in a catchment that is meeting its escapement targets	Aspiring	2	0
2.2 There is good progress with the applicant's responsibilities in the eel management plan for the river or district	**Aspiring**	2	**0**
2.3 The fishery is well managed	Responsible	1	1
2.4 Mortality during fishing is minimised	Aspiring	2	0
2.5 The fishery has negligible impacts on by-catch species	Aspiring	1	0
2.6 The fishery has negligible impacts on rare or other protected species	Responsible	1	1
2.7 The fishery has negligible impacts on habitats	Responsible	1	1
2.8 Transport	Responsible	1	1
2.9 Bonus score: fishermen donate a proportion of their catch for a local positive contribution	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total		11	**4**
Percentage Responsibility Score:		**36%**	

Finding: With a score of 36%, the fishery don't meet the requirements of component 2 for elver fishing and is considered **as aspiring** under the SEG standard. **However, this downgrading is due to a national demand for increased quotas and not to fishing practices.**

Summary of assessment and scoring

Component	Not Met	Aspiring	Responsible
1	0	0	5
2	0	7	4
Total	**0**	**7**	**9**
Total Responsibility Score: = 9/16			**56%**

Summary finding:

With a score on the responsibility criteria of **56%**, the fishery has reached the level required to be considered **responsible** and meets the criteria for **certification by the SEG standard**.

5) Recommendations:

Fish-Pass makes the following recommendations in relation to the **Charente maritime, Charente freshwater (Saint Savinien),** the Seudre and the Brouage marshes fishery:

1. With an overall responsibility score of **56%**, the fishery has reached the level required to be considered **responsible** and meets the criteria for **certification for the SEG standard**. However, we recommend that this certificate is only issued if the following pre-requisite is met:
    a. Fishermen will have to sign a paper certifying that they are going to fully immerse the net for the entire duration of the fishing hauls.
2. The fishery should consider how to make a positive contribution to eel conservation projects (criteria 1.2 and 2.9) and implement them by the next evaluation.
3. **Criterion 2.2: In view of the current context, the fragility of this resource and the recent ICES advice to close all eel fisheries, the representative bodies of professional glass eel fishermen should not request an increase in the annual quota. Fishermen wishing to engage in a sustainable exploitation of this resource must ensure that their representatives do not make such a request and follow the advice of scientists (most often recommending a reduction in the quota).**
4. A possible biosecurity issue (criterion 1.5) is present with fishermen being able to fish both on the Seudre and the Charente during the same fishing season. For the fishermen concerned, great care will have to be taken to clean the sieves after each fishing trip and to let them dry well when changing fishing sectors.
5. With regard to criterion 2.4, several things can be improved in order to obtain the criterion of responsibility:
    a. Reduce fishing time to always stay below 20 minutes.
    b. Reduce fishing speed to stay below 1 knot.
    c. Always keep elvers in a water tank, preferably with bubbling and/or recirculating water.
    d. Keep a mortality logbook on board the boat. This logbook can be filled out at the end of the tide to indicate the number of dead or dying glass eels that have left the tank.
    e. **The Saint Savinien fishermen have a fish tank at home which they use to store glass eels for at least 48 hours. However, for the majority, no mortality monitoring is carried out on these tanks. We recommend that, starting this year, fishermen keep a logbook of home mortalities that they can provide to the auditor during the control audit. Mortality should be linked to a period and a quantity of glass eels caught (fishing log). For greater legibility, it is preferable that the elver releases during sales are also indicated. An exemple :**

Date	Quantity added to the tank (g)	Mortality (g) or Number of individuals (N)	Quantity leaving the fish tank (g)
04/01/2021	1890	0	0
05/01/2021	910	10	0
06/01/2021	0	5	0
07/01/2021	500	20	0
08/01/2021	0	0	3260

The exit weight may not necessarily correspond to the weight fished + mortality. This may be due to weight loss and weighing accuracy.

6. With regard to criterion 2.5, by-catches or glass eels may remain trapped for several hauls in the nets. Fishermen should take care to remove all fish present when emptying the pockets between each haul.
7. We recommend testing with indigo carmine during the control audit. The lesions taken into account remain to be defined but this system would allow us to judge whether the practices are in accordance with the SEG standard, despite the excessively high speeds observed.

6) Next Audit

Question	Performance of the Client at Audit	Yes	No
1	Has the client been part of any external investigation which may be of concern to SEG AND/OR been suspended from any other certification standard?	Enhanced Surveillance	**Go to Q2**
2	Has the client received a borderline pass for a Component in its previous audit?	Enhanced Surveillance	**Go to Q3**
3	Does the client only buy and sell product (does not physically handle it?)	Minimum Surveillance	**Go to Q4**
4	All other scenarios	Standard Surveillance	

	Certification Audit	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4 Recertification Audit
Minimum Surveillance	On-Site Audit	No Audit	Remote Audit	No Audit	On-Site Audit
Standard Surveillance	On-Site Audit	No Audit	On-Site Audit	No Audit	On-Site Audit
Enhanced Surveillance	On-Site Audit	On-Site Audit	On-Site Audit	On-Site Audit	On-Site Audit

Standard monitoring is recommended. The next Audit should be scheduled for January 2023. **During the next audit, it will not be necessary to embark for the fishermen of Saint Savinien, but a carmine blue test must be carried out.**

7) The Assessment

The tables below give the outcomes of the assessment against each of the criteria of Components 1 and 2 of the standard, providing a rationale for the scores given above.

Component 1 – Generic requirements (Weighting : 1 for each criterion)	
Criterion 1.1: Commitment to legality	
Responsible indicators	For at least the past two years: the organisation has not been found guilty for any offences relating to eel fishing or trading.
Aspiring indicators	For at least the past 12 months: the organisation has not been found guilty for any offences relating to eel fishing or trading.
Discussion	**The six initial fishermen and the three fishermen audited in the Saint Savinien sector** have no current or recent judicial investigations. In addition, all fishermen sign an agreement certifying that they respect the conditions of the ESG standard, which includes a commitment to legality. The criterion is therefore met.
Score	Responsible

Criterion 1.2: Contribution to Eel Conservation Projects. (Optional bonus score) (The intention is for this to be mandatory from summer 2020)	
Responsible indicators	The organisation donates at least 2% of its profits or at least 20% of its corporate responsibility programme to projects that make a positive contribution to eel conservation or population enhancement, such as Eel Stewardship Funds, River Restoration projects, conservation and education projects.
Aspiring indicators	The organisation donates 1 – 1.99% of its profits or 10 - 20% of its corporate responsibility programme to projects that make a positive contribution to eel conservation or population enhancement, such as Eel Stewardship Funds, River Restoration projects, conservation and education projects.
Discussion	N/A
Score	N/A

Criterion 1.3: The organisation trades in certified responsibly sourced eel	
Responsible indicators	The organisation trades in at least 50% (by number) of certified responsibly sourced eel and has the documentation to demonstrate that.
Aspiring indicators	The organisation trades in 10 – 49.9% (by number) of certified responsibly sourced eel and has the documentation to demonstrate that.
Discussion	**The initial and complementary audit** only concerns fishermen who have not yet been certified by SEG and who therefore do not yet market certified eels. They are therefore not yet concerned by this criterion.
Score	N/A

Criterion 1.4: Traceability	
1.4.1: Traceability - Incoming product, separation and segregation	
Responsible indicators	• Certified and uncertified eel products can be clearly and easily traced back to their source. • Where a fishery or buyer, an electronic tele-declaration system is used. • It operates a clear system which ensures that the product remains separated at all stages from arrival to dispatch from non-certified eel products. • The organisation ensures that any products wishing to make a claim as certified do not contain any non-certified eel-based ingredients. • If resolved through mass- or number- balance calculations, the margin of error does not exceed 2%.
Aspiring indicators	• Certified and uncertified eel products can be traced back to their source. • If segregation is not possible, there are clear and auditable records of the numbers of certified and uncertified eels entering the organisation at each facility. • It can demonstrate through auditable records that the number of certified eels exiting the organisation in a ear did not exceed the number that entered. • If resolved through mass- or number- balance calculations, the margin of error does not exceed 5% or if a farm, the 2800 pieces per 1 kg of glass eels is applied.
Discussion	All the fishermen audited use the electronic declaration system. This system enables them to declare their catches via sms directly to the departmental fisheries committee. A computerised database makes it possible to track the fishermen's quota finely and to avoid exceeding the authorised quotas. Each day's fishing is also declared on paper via fishing forms in 3 copies: 1 for the administration (France Agrimer), 1 for the wholesaler and the last one is kept by the fisherman. This criterion has therefore been met
Score	Responsible

1.4.2: Traceability - Outgoing product	
Responsible indicators	• Where a fishery or buyer, an electronic tele-declaration system is used • Documentation is well maintained with a maximum of 2% error in the following: • The organisation correctly uses batch-coding for labelling certified product, which can be on the packaging for the product, or included in the documentation (e.g. invoice) with the assignment • All product to be sold as certified by an organisation is accompanied by an invoice which meets the following criteria: - Includes an appropriate batch code - Includes a record of the quantity (no. & weight) of product and to whom it was sold
Aspiring indicators	• Documentation is well maintained. If resolved through mass- or number- balance calculations, the margin of error does not exceed 5% in the following (or if a farm, the 2800 pieces per 1 kg of glass eels is applied): • The organisation correctly uses batch-coding for labelling certified product, which can be on the packaging for the product, or included in the documentation (e.g. invoice) with the assignment. • All products to be sold as certified by an organisation are accompanied by an invoice which meets the following criteria: - Includes an appropriate batch code.

	- Includes a record of the quantity (no. & weight) of product and to whom it was sold.
Discussion	As in the previous point, this audit concerns only fishermen and they use a system of electronic tele-declaration and fishing form. The criterion is therefore met.
Score	Responsible

1.4.3: Traceability - Record keeping and documentation	
Responsible indicators	• The organisation operates a system that allows the tracking and tracing of all eel from purchase to sale and including any steps in between. In the case of live eels this should include the ability to track each batch delivered to a buyer to be connected back to a water, a time period (maximum duration one month) and specific fisherman/vessel. • If a fisherman or buyer, a tele-declaration system is used to report catches and trade. • The organisation operates a system that also allows for the completion of a batch reconciliation of eel product by weight over a given period. • The organisation maintains records for a minimum of three (3) years.
Aspiring indicators	The above requirements are met except that: • Records have been maintained for less than three (3) years • If a fisherman or trader, a tele-declaration system is planned to be used to report catches and trade in the next season
Discussion	The fishermen all use an electronic tele-declaration system and fishing forms. These data are kept by the administrative authorities for more than 3 years. The criterion is therefore met.
Score	Responsible

Criterion 1.5: Biosecurity & welfare – Eel and eel products are provided with minimal risk of diseases, parasites and alien species	
1.5.1 Eel Fishing: Biosecurity measures are adopted	
Responsible indicators	• The fishery conducts good biosecurity measures such as the disinfection and drying of nets and equipment between each fishing in different waters. **OR** • The fishermen only operate in the same river or estuary, with no risk of transferring diseases or alien species between catchments.
Discussion	Fishermen working on the Charente or the Seudre have a licence for these two sites. Thus, some of them change site during the season. This can lead to a biosecurity risk. But considering that : - The sieves systematically pass through salt water during the tide. - The sieves are cleaned at the end of the tide. - The sieves are left out of the water between tides. This makes it very unlikely that a disease or exotic species will be transported from one area to another. Even if this were to happen, there is a canal between the Charente and the Seudre, so these two entities are already connected and so diseases and invasive species can circulate freely. We consider that the criterion has been met but make recommendations to still pay attention to biosecurity (part 5, page 4).

	The river fishermen of the Charente only operate in one sector. The criterion is therefore met.
Score	Responsible

Summary scores for Component 1	
Not met	0
Not applicable	2
Aspiring	0
Responsible	5
Total possible	5
% Responsibility (Responsible / Total possible)	**100%**

Component 2 - Glass eel fishing	
Criterion 2.1: Eel fishing is in a catchment that is meeting its escapement targets	
Weighting: 2	
Sustainable Indicator	There are good data which show to the satisfaction of the fisheries authority that the EU silver eel 40% escapement target (40% B0) is being achieved for the river or in the eel management district.
Responsible indicators	There are good data which show to the satisfaction of the fisheries authority that at least 70% of the Bbest target for silver eel escapement is being met in the river or eel management district.
Aspiring indicators	Eel fishing is in a place accepted by the fishery authority as providing a positive contribution to the eel stock or, the river or RBD is meeting 40% - <70% of the Bbest target.
Discussion	The information available on this subject (Report of the Eel Management Plan in France, 2018) shows that, for the moment, the objective of 40% of the B0 or 70% of the BBEST is not achieved, both in the relevant Management Unit (GDC) and in the other French Management Units. Moreover, we do not have precise information by watershed to make a more detailed assessment of this criterion. However, all the actions planned in France's Eel Management Plan (EMP) have been implemented and the rebuilding of the eel stock requires long-term action. The effects of the measures taken in recent years are not observable for the moment. The actions taken by the fisheries sector are detailed in the following criterion. Considering all this, the criterion is not met, but significant efforts have been made since the establishment of the EMP, particularly by professional fishermen.
Score	Aspiring

Criterion 2.2: There is good progress with the applicant's responsibilities in the Eel Management Plan for the river or District	
Weighting: 2	
Responsible indicators	There is credible progress with at least 75% of the actions relating to the fishery for the implementation of the Eel Management Plan for the river or eel management district.
Aspiring indicators	There is credible progress with at least 50% of the actions relating to the fishery for the implementation of the Eel Management Plan for the river or eel management district.
Discussion	Professional fisheries stakeholders have implemented the majority of actions related to the EMP. So, the exploitation rate of glass eel stock has decreased significantly since the reference period. This rate has been relatively stable in recent years and fluctuates around the management target. The allocation of glass eel fishing licences has decreased by 57% between 2006 and 2018. The ratio of the fishing quota 40% consumption and 60% restocking is unchanged since 2013. However, the target of 60% glass eels for restocking in Europe has never been reached, but the profession is getting closer to this target over the years. Reaching this objective is dependent on the European market, which is not the responsibility of professional fishermen.

	The overall catch quota for France has been increased for the 2021-2022 season to a total of 65 tonnes, an increase of +13% compared to the previous season. Given the current context and the recent ICES advice to close all eel fisheries. The increase in quotas is a bad signal for the sustainability of the fishery. **Finally, France allocates between 5 and 10% of annual catches to French restocking operations, 5.8% in 2018.** **Despite the efforts made over many years, the quota increase for the 2021-2022 season does not meet the responsibility criterion.** **The last EMP report (2018) indicated that all actions had been completed and the exploitation rate remained below 50% and close to the management target. However, with the increase in quotas this year it is possible that the exploitation rate is above the management target. It is not known if this is the case, but the ministerial decision to increase quotas goes against the advice of scientists (to decrease). It is therefore presumed that the management target is exceeded with this quota.**
Score	Aspiring

Criterion 2.3: The fishery is well managed	
Weighting: 1	
Responsible indicators	• Fishers are licensed and provide catch and effort data via a tele-declaration system. • Data on catch and effort are collected and analysed regularly by the fishery authority (at least annually at the end of the season). • There is a data set for at least the last 5 years that is considered by the fishery authority to be accurate, useful for statistical purposes and provide a comprehensive picture of the glass eel fishery under assessment. • Enforcement is in place throughout the fishing area and there is no evidence of systematic non-compliance.
Aspiring indicators	• Fishers are licensed and provide catch and effort data. • Data on catch and effort are collected and analysed regularly by the fishery authority (at least annually at the end of the season). • There is a data set for at least the last 3 years that is considered by the fishery authority to be accurate and provide enough information on the glass eel fishery under assessment for management and to track annual trends in glass eel arrival. • There is no evidence of systematic non-compliance.
Discussion	All fishermen have a licence and carry out the electronic filing in addition to the declaration by the fishing form. Fishing figures are monitored throughout the season by the Fisheries Committee to know the exact consumption of the quota to avoid a preventive closure. The official data come from the fishing sheets sent by fishermen to the administrative authorities. Thus, the Directorate of Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture (DPMA in french) collects and compiles these data. During the elver fishing season, the DPMA distributes a table every week to report on the consumption of quotas in the various UGAs. In May-June, when the season is over, the DPMA distributes a statistical compendium (quota consumption, market price, number of wholesalers, etc.) per UGA. There is a set of reliable data for more than 5 years. This criterion has therefore been met.
Score	Responsible

Criterion 2.4: Mortality during fishing is minimised	
Weighting: 2	
Responsible indicators	• Fishing is by hand-held nets and has effective nearby holding facilities **OR** • Fishing from vessels meets the following criteria: i) fishing is at slow speed (no more than 1 knot relative to water); ii) haul duration is on average no longer than 20 minutes, with the maximum duration not more than 30 minutes; iii) mesh size of cod end no greater than 1mm; iv) rest of the net designed such that glass eels do not become trapped or abraded; v) vivier tank on board and in use; vi) fishermen maintain accurate daily records of mortality. **OR** • Fishermen can demonstrate that the mortality rate of the catch over the duration of holding in the storage facility is less than 4% for each batch captured. **OR** • Fishing methods (in France) meet the criteria in Category 1 of the France Good Practice Guide. **OR** • The Carmin Indigo or similar test indicates that mortality averages less than 4%.
Aspiring indicators	• Fishing from vessels meets the following criteria: i) fishing is at slow speed (no more than 1.5 knots relative to water); ii) maximum haul duration no longer than 30 minutes; iii) mesh size of cod end no greater than 1mm; iv) rest of the net designed such that glass eels do not become trapped or abraded; v) vivier tank on board and in use; vi) fishermen maintain accurate daily records of mortality. OR • Fishermen can demonstrate that the mortality rate of the catch over the duration of holding in the storage facility is between 4% and 8% for each batch captured. **OR** • Fishing methods (in France) meet the criteria in Category 2 of the France Good Practice Guide. **OR** • The Carmin Indigo or similar test indicates that mortality averages between 4% and 8%.
Discussion	The practices observed on the Seudre and the Charente maritime are quite similar. Thus, the sieves used are rectangular (or very rarely square) in shape, with a maximum surface area of 7 m² each, i.e. approximately 2.4 m per 2.9 m. The width and height may vary slightly between fishermen. The length of the gear is often between 6 and 7 m. Gear has a decreasing mesh size with 2 mm at the entrance and 1 mm at the end, which greatly limits elver injuries due to fishing. On Brouage, the sieves used are square with a length and width of 1.2 meters for a sieve about 4 metres long. The mesh size is degressive, starting at 2mm and ending at 1mm. **In the Saint Savinien area, only hand sieves are allowed. The maximum width of the sieves is 120 cm.** Fishing is carried out mainly against the current on the Seudre and Charente rivers and has a speed of around 0.5 to 1.7 knots depending on the sites and the fishermen. On the Havre de Brouage, the fisherman is stationary and therefore the fishing speed is zero. **There is no speed in the Saint Savinien sector (hand fishing).** The length of the strokes is quite variable depending on the fishermen and the "dirtiness of the water". The dirtier the water, the shorter the stroke. On the Seudre the fishing time during the tide was between 15 and 20 minutes. On the Charente the duration of the strokes was less than 10 minutes. On the Brouage marshes, fishing time varies from 15 to 30 minutes maximum depending on the coefficient and speed of the current. The stronger the current, the more frequent are the hauls. **In the Saint Savinien sector, the fishing time is almost zero. The fisherman passes the sieve on the surface and raises it immediately.**

	For one of the fishermen on the Charente, the terminal mesh size was greater than 1mm. This fisherman has already undertaken to change his nets. **The mesh size of the hand sieves in the Saint Savinien sector is greater than 1mm. However, the fishing practised does not entail any risk of elvers getting stuck in the mesh (no speed and almost no fishing time).** No glass eels were observed trapped in any part other than the sieve bottom. However, some fishermen were observed with part of the net on board during the fishing action. Thus, when not all of the net is in the water, the "bend" created is on a section where the mesh size is greater than 1mm, which is not in compliance with the requirements of the SEG standard. This also increases the pressure on the elvers. The catches are all passed through one or more sieves depending on the fishermen, in order to separate the elvers from the by-catch. All by-catches are released quickly. In addition, a few elvers and fish have been observed getting stuck in the nets during several strokes. This is a consequence of the large length of the net, which makes it difficult to empty. All the fishermen audited use a fish tank with recirculation or bubbling except for the fisherman on Brouage. This one uses a fine-mesh net bag that he leaves in the water as a fish tank. **In the Saint Savinien area, the fishermen do not have a fish tank. This would be possible in the boats but they often fish from the shore. A box (plastic or wood) topped with a reject sieve is used to store the glass eels during the tide.** At the end of the tide, the **maritime** fishermen sell the glass eels directly to the fish merchants at the landing port. **River fishermen keep their catches in fish tanks at home.** Fishermen do not keep a logbook on board **or at the home fish tank** in order to estimate fishing mortality. Thus, most of the criteria are met. However, some fishermen go at a speed greater than 1 knot and the pocket does not always appear to be spun. For this reason, an aspiring score is recommended for this criterion.
Score	Aspiring

Criterion 2.5: The fishery has negligible impacts on by-catch species	
Weighting: 1	
Responsible indicators	• The fishery has a negligible impact on by-catch. • By-catch is returned to the water alive as gently and rapidly as possible.
Aspiring indicators	• The fishery has low-level impacts on by-catch. • By-catch is returned to the water alive as gently and rapidly as possible.
Discussion	The by-catches encountered are the following: Sprat, Silverside fish, Sea bass, Nilsson's Pipefish, stickleback, Thinlip grey mullet, Spotted goby, Sand goby, Eel, Bitterling, Bream, White shrimp, Brown shrimp. These species, caught in low numbers, are returned to the water quickly and without major impacts. However, at the different sites, the sock (terminal part of the net) is quite long and some fish may get stuck in it for several consecutive strokes. In this case the chances of survival of these fish are greatly reduced. **In the Saint Savinien sector, sticklebacks and roach were caught in addition to elvers. Depending on the fishermen, these by-catches are released more or less quickly.** It therefore appears that practices can have a low impact on by-catch. An improvement must be made on this side, so this criterion only reaches the aspiring indicator.
Score	Aspiring

Criterion 2.6: The fishery has negligible impacts on rare or other protected species	
Weighting: 1	
Responsible indicators	The fishery has no direct interactions resulting in mortality or injuries with other species that are considered vulnerable, threatened, endangered or are protected under national or international law.
Aspiring indicators	Interactions, resulting in mortality or injury, with other species that are considered vulnerable, threatened, endangered, or are protected under national or international law, are rare and have no overall measurable impact on the population.
Discussion	Among the species caught, the presence of eels was noted in the sieves. The fishermen take care to put them back into the water. We did not observe the presence of other vulnerable or protected species during boarding. The criterion has therefore been met.
Score	Responsible

Criterion 2.7: The fishery has negligible impacts on habitats	
Weighting: 1	
Responsible indicators	The fishing gear does not cause any damage to the benthos.
Aspiring indicators	Damage to the benthos by gear is limited or minimal.
Discussion	The practices observed are mainly carried out in open water and therefore far from the bottom. Although it may happen that some fishermen fish more at the edge, they keep a reasonable height in relation to the benthos so as not to touch it. This criterion has therefore been met.
Score	Responsible

Criterion 2.8: Transport	
Weighting: 1	
Responsible indicators	• The operator holds the relevant transport authorisations. • There is a Transport Plan in place to minimise travel time – this meets the Transport requirements for vertebrates. • Packing is done in a way that minimises handling, time and stress. • Eels are kept cool and wet with an adequate supply of oxygen.
Discussion	The fishing form is filled in at the end of the tide, before leaving the boat. All **sea** fishermen sell directly to the fish wholesaler in the port when they disembark. **The river fishermen transport the glass eels to their home tanks and then deliver them to the fishmonger a few days later.** All fishermen use a plastic or polystyrene crate to land the elvers before sale. The criterion is therefore met.
Score	Responsible

Criterion 2.9: Bonus Score: Fishermen donate a proportion of their catch for a local positive contribution	
Weighting: 1	
Responsible indicators	Fishermen have donated an average of at least 5% of their catch in the past 2 years to local stocking programmes, e.g. translocating over barriers to aid upstream migration and recruitment in the catchment, or have credible plans in place to do so next season (note that this is separate from any planned restocking to meet the 60% target).
Discussion	N/A
Score	N/A

Summary scores for Component 2	
Not met	0
Not applicable	1
Aspiring	7
Responsible	4
Total possible	11
% Responsibility (Responsible / Total possible)	36%